

Post 9/6/76

Gifts in Public Service

The media discussions of the FBI Director's admissions about accepting gifts from his subordinates have referred to "government regulations," "presidential orders," "directives," and gifts of "nominal value."

Section 7351 of Title V of the U.S. Code provides that "An employee may not...accept a gift from an employee receiving less pay than himself. An employee who violates this section shall be removed from the service."

The statute is clear and unequivocal. The value of the gifts is of no consequence. Unless there are facts or circumstances not yet made public, it would seem that Mr. Kelley has violated not a regulation, a directive, or an order but the law of the land.

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Did the FBI break in to the Clarence Kelley apartment illegally to measure for his valances?

EDNA ANGSTMAN

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